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## ZELENSKYY SAYS TOO EARLY TO TALK ABOUT WAR'S END

**After his troops recapture vast swathes of territory from Russia, Ukrainian leader says the war's end nowhere near**

### CONTRADICTS PUTIN'S ASSURANCE TO MODI

Zelenskyy's statement comes a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin assured Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a bilateral meeting during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Samarkand, that he will try to end the Ukraine war as soon as possible. However, Zelenskyy told Reuters that it is too early to talk about the end of the war

### RUSSIAN PRESIDENT NUANCES STANCE

- Interestingly, hours later, Putin contradicted himself, telling reporters in Samarkand that he is in no hurry to end the war
- Going further, he warned Kyiv that Moscow will respond sharply if its forces come under more pressure. Meanwhile, Modi earned international praise for telling Putin "now is no time for war" | P12

**5,827**

UKRAINIAN CIVILIANS KILLED SINCE THE WAR'S START, ACCORDING TO THE U.N.


CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

VIMS Director Gangadhar Gowda (second from left) meets members of a probe team on the hospital premises in Ballari on Friday | EXPRESS

# VIMS ICU deaths were pre-planned: Director

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ballari

IN a shocking revelation, Gangadar Gowda, Director of Vijayanagara Institute of Medical Science (VIMS) in Ballari has alleged that the deaths of two patients in the ICU were "premeditated" as part of a conspiracy to spoil the reputation of the institute and to get him removed from the post. Gowda said he is planning to lodge a complaint with the police in this regard.

Two patients, admitted in the ICU of VIMS, died on September 14 allegedly due to a power failure. However, confusion prevails over the number of deaths in the incident. Though the hospital administration claims two persons died, there are reports of deaths of four patients doing the rounds

Gowda told *TNSE*, "I have proof in the form of audio clips. I will soon file a complaint and fight it legally."

"As the probe panel members visited the hospital on Friday, I explained the sequence of events to them. I hope the truth will come out soon. If there is any lapse on my part, I am ready to face action", he added.

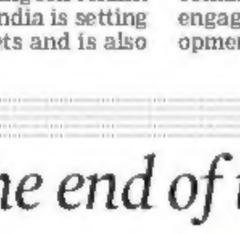
On September 14, there was a power outage at the hospital from 8 am to 11 am and the two patients who were on ventilators died due to a power failure. The deceased are Chettamma (36) and Husein (39). On the same day, Chandramma (65) and Manoj Kumar (18) also died but the VIMS administration described them as natural deaths.

Meanwhile, MLA Somashekhar Reddy slammed Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar for his alleged inaction in the episode. He said he had raised doubts over the appointment of Gowda as the director. "I was against Gowda's appointment from day one. I will soon meet Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to discuss the issue," he added. P4

**13-14%**

India's logistics cost as a proportion of the GDP

**Govt aims** to bring the cost down to a single digit




**PM GATI SHAKTI**

The new policy is part of the PM Gatishakti National Master Plan launched in October 2021

# CHEETAHS ARRIVE IN STYLE

Special aircraft lands at Gwalior IAF airbase shortly before 8 am; PM releases big cats at KNP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

SPORTING a dark olive wide-brimmed hat, a sleeveless khaki safari jacket and handling a powerful Nikon camera with zoom lens, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday celebrated his birthday among the eight cheetahs that were released into special enclosures at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district.

The fully vaccinated big cats (five females and three males) flew 12 hours in a special cargo aircraft accompanied by wildlife experts from Namibia's Windhoek airport and landed at Gwalior IAF airbase at 7.55 am. They were shifted in Chinook helicopters to their new home at KNP.

Around 11.30 am, Modi marked his 72nd birthday by releasing three of the eight cheetahs into special enclosures where they will be in quarantine for a month. Modi was accompanied by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Soon after the PM worked a lever that opened the cages, the cheetahs emerged wearing curious looks and explored their new surroundings. At first, they appeared to be hesitant and cautious. The PM captured the historic moment in his camera. "We have to give them (cheetahs) enough time to make KNP their new and best home. Have some patience and wait for some months before they comfortably make Kuno their new home," Modi appealed to wildlife enthusiasts.

The cheetahs will spend the next month in total quarantine in separate enclosures, where they will be under round-the-clock watch of experts.

"For around a month, they will be total guests and fed ready-to-eat food. Subsequently, they will be freed into the bigger enclosure, where they will hunt chitals, their first prey," a source said.

# 'GUESTS' TO BE GIVEN PRE-TESTED, READY-TO-EAT FOOD FOR 1 MONTH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi after releasing cheetahs inside a special enclosure in the Kuno National Park | PTI

CHANDAN NANDY @ New Delhi

FOR the next one month, the eight cheetahs that were released into their respective enclosures within the Kano National Park on Saturday would be fed 'dressed buffalo meat', Madhya Pradesh Divisional Forest Officer Prakash Verma told this paper. As per protocol, the cheetahs travelled from Namibia on empty stomachs even as they were under mild sedation. Once they were released into their respective quarantine enclosures, they had water from the water bodies which are replenished regularly.

"We'll feed them dressed buffalo meat... The meat will be pre-tested before it is served to the cheetahs. This will be followed for a month before they are allowed into larger enclosures, each 5 sq km in area, where they will be able to hunt chital, neel gai, wild pigs and sambhar which are in plentiful," National Tiger Conservation Authority Member Secretary Dr S P Yadav said.

He added that all the cheetahs are doing well. "They are active and they are exploring their new surroundings," Yadav said, adding the big cats will be fed every "two to three days, depending on the advice of the veteranarians".

The big cats will be under observation for the first one month at their new home, and experts from the Wildlife Institute of India will analyse the data from the radio collars around the cheetahs' necks.

Besides the animals' eating habits and the manner in which they will hunt in their new horizons, their excreta will also be tracked as it provides crucial information about their health and movement patterns, wildlife experts said.

### Karnataka may not get the big cat

Bengaluru: Even as cheetahs have been reintroduced in India, Karnataka might not get to see the big cat sprinting in the wild. With changes in Karnataka forests and wildlife population, introduction of a new species will not be possible, an official said. "We cannot experiment all the time and everywhere. We need to wait and see what happens in Kuno." P5

EXPRESS READ

### CM announces Rs 5k cr for Kalyana K'taka

Kalaburagi: The state will reserve Rs 5,000 crore in next year's budget for the development of Kalyana Karnataka region. Announcing this in Kalaburagi on Saturday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said he kept his promise of providing Rs 3,000 crore to the region this year | P4

# New Central govt policy to reduce transport cost

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the National Logistics Policy, which seeks to promote faster movement of goods while bringing down transportation costs considerably. The policy aims to bring down the logistics cost from 13-14% of the GDP to 8%. "We must bring the logistic cost to single digit as soon as possible. This, in a way, is a low-hanging fruit, if we have to become globally competitive," said Modi while unveiling the policy, which he said will help fulfill India's dream of becoming a developed economy.

"The echo of Make in India and India becoming self-reliant is everywhere. India is setting big export targets and is also fulfilling them. The notion that India is emerging as a manufacturing hub, is stabilizing in the mind of the world. If we study the PLI scheme we will find that the world has accepted it," Modi stated.

In such a situation, the PM said, the policy will bring new energy to all sectors. He said the policy is just a beginning and its execution will be key to progress. The policy envisages creating a Unique Logistics Interface Platform that will bring all the digital services related to the transportation sector into a single portal, freeing the exporters from a host of very long and cumbersome processes. It also plans standardisation of physical assets — like size of containers, trucks, etc — better engagement with states, development of logistics parks, etc.

Sarpanch Asha Kaithwas and her husband Vikas Kaithwas | EXPRESS

# Sarpanch pawns jewellery to instal cameras in village

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

A newly elected sarpanch in Madhya Pradesh stands as a rare example of a public leader working for public good, even at a personal cost. Asha Kaithwas, 35, was recently elected as a sarpanch in Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur district.

Kaithwas was elected to the post about one-and-half-months ago. She came to power at a time when the abduction of a 12-year-old boy from Jhajhar village, which comes under the Jhiri panchayat, sparked panic among villagers.

Making security of the villagers a priority, Kaithwas mortgaged the jewellery given by parents at time of her marriage in 2009, to fund the installation of four CCTV cameras and supporting equipment.

Though the boy was found two days later in the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, some 70 km away from his village, Kaithwas told this newspaper that the police faced difficulties in locating the boy due to lack of CCTV cameras.

"As I was only recently elected, I was yet to get the charge from the outgoing sarpanch. Also, my digital signatures were yet to be recorded owing to which I could not get money allocated for the village panchayat. I decided to mortgage the jewellery," she said. The CCTV cameras and supporting equipment cost ₹82,000.

# BSY moves SC against HC order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

VETERAN BJP leader and former CM B S Yediyurappa has moved the Supreme Court against the recent Karnataka High Court's order of restoring a private complaint against him and his family members for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 12.5 crore to get a project sanctioned for Ramalingam Construction Company Private Limited from Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). The company is owned by Chandrakant Ramalingam.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli will hear Yediyurappa's plea on Monday.

The high court order, dated September 7, 2022, had restored a private complaint filed by social activist T J Abraham challenging a lower court's order which had dismissed his complaint.

B'LURU-MYS EXPRESSWAY

# *Is it the end of the road for world-famous 'Land of Toys'*

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Ramanagara/Mandya

CHANNAPATNA, the Land of Toys, with its rich cultural history dating back to hundreds of years, is known for its wooden handicrafts and skilled artisans. A taluk headquarters in Ramanagara district, Channapatna is known for its toys and handicrafts, which are famous across the world.

But all this could soon be history as the work on the ambitious 10-lane Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway is going on in full swing. Though the expressway is not fully operational yet, it has already snatched the livelihoods of thousands of people. The corridor has nine major bridges, 44 minor bridges and four rail over-bridges. Once fully functional, the 117-km highway – from the NICE entrance in Bengaluru to Ring Road Junction in Mysuru – is expected to cut travel time from an average of three hours to about 90 minutes.

A toy shop in Channapatna on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway wears a deserted look as motorists now bypass such shops by taking the Expressway (right) | VINOD KUMAR T

On the flip side though, a dipstick survey of businesses that thrive along the route paints a grim picture. Take Sri Meenakshi Handicraft for instance. One of the biggest toy shops in Channapatna, it now faces an uncertain future. Buzzing with activity till recently, the staff strength here has reduced to only two from the earlier 15. Handmade wooden toys worth crores of rupees are lying unsold.

This is the story of many such toy emporiums in and around Channapatna, which is located on the old Bengaluru-Mysuru road.

Even the famous idli joints of Bidadi in Ramanagara and Maddur Tiffanys in Maddur, which have been running for the last 70 to 100 years, are facing the threat as the expressway bypasses them. P2